



## 2018-20 Action Plan

### Protocol of Cooperation between Finistère and Cornwall

#### Context

Finistère and Cornwall have been partners since 1989. Over almost 30 years we have maintained strong links and built a unique partnership. The partnership has allowed us to share experience and expertise and build a deep cultural understanding between the two regions. The Protocol of Cooperation outlines our main priorities and this action plan operationalises our intentions for the two-year period 2018-20. Finistère's international officer hosted by the Cornwall Council drives the implementing of the action plan.

Regional cooperation has been hugely beneficial to our two regions and our mutual commitment to this partnership has not been changed by Brexit. We will work together to maintain our cooperation and find new ways of working together in a post-Brexit world.

#### Key areas of cooperation

##### 1. Facilitating exchange and cooperation between local communities

It is a priority for us to facilitate exchange and cooperation between communities in Finistère and Cornwall. This can take many forms, from local community groups exchanging best practise about taking action against plastic waste, to cultural exchanges around our shared Celtic heritage, to businesses coming together to do joint research. While it is sometimes difficult to pin down the specific outcomes achieved from individual exchanges or cooperation projects, we believe that communities coming together will foster innovation, dialogue and will link our two regions via a shared sense of place.

##### 2. Identify joint political priorities and engage in common lobbying activity when possible

We want to use the partnership to jointly have a stronger voice in policy debates. As regions we share many characteristics – we are both proud maritime regions with a shared Celtic heritage, we are regions where tourism and agriculture are key features of our economies and we have high ambitious in terms of renewable energy – which gives us a unique opportunity to join forces in terms of influencing regional, national or EU policy in a direction that is beneficial to us as regions.

Brexit will change the political landscape within which we operate during the period of this action plan. The UK will cease to be a member of the EU and this will create new opportunities as well as challenges where a joint Finistère/Cornwall approach will hold us in better stead than working in isolation. Funding for regional cooperation is a key point in case where the two regions will need to work together to ensure that regional cooperation is included in the deal around the UK/EU future relationship.

3. Facilitate the concrete development of cooperation programmes based on EU funding and other types of funding that supports regional cooperation

As this action plan coincides with the end of the 2014-2020 EU programme cycle and in light of Brexit, key priorities are;

- a) taking full advantage of the remaining EU funding opportunities, including INTERREG, Erasmus + and Europe Horizon, that are available to us under the 2014-20 programme
- b) starting to develop an understanding of what the funding landscape for regional development will look like following Brexit including the scope for joint projects under the future UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the future EU co-operation programmes (Interreg, citizens for Europe, Creative Europe, Frameworks for research etc.)

### **Thematic priorities for the partnership**

A number of thematic priorities have been identified for the 2018-20 action plan;

- **Blue and green growth**  
Creating economic opportunities linked to our shared maritime heritage with a strong focus on protecting and enhancing the natural environment which is the basis of much economic activity in our regions
- **Adapting to a post-Brexit world**  
Supporting our businesses and communities to adapt to a post-Brexit reality. This could include practical collaboration between business support services in each region to support businesses to adapt to new UK/EU trading relationship
- **Tourism, culture and regional languages**  
Building on our shared Celtic identity to explore opportunities to strengthen joint cultural activities. Harnessing our regional distinctness to work jointly to promote our regions as tourist destinations
- **Agriculture and fisheries**  
Collaborating on research and fostering exchange of best practice to the benefit of the agricultural sector in both regions
- **Vibrant and inclusive communities, including opportunities for young people**  
Creating opportunities for communities to meet, exchange experiences and create links and enter into dialogue. This will include expanding on twinning opportunities as well as working together on cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, social and economic inclusion and creating opportunities for young people

Below is an overview of projects already identified that will be explored further during the life of this action plan;

THEME	PROJECTS ALREADY IDENTIFIED AND TO CARRY ON/EXPAND or TO BE EXPLORED
Blue and green growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fight against invasive species</li> <li>- End plastic pollution</li> </ul>
Tourism, culture and regional languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting gardens</li> <li>- Encourage the development of cycle routes</li> <li>- Linking creative industries</li> <li>- Common art and historic exhibitions</li> <li>- Promotion of regional languages</li> </ul>
Vibrant and inclusive communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Linking people (secondary schools, twinning communities)</li> <li>- Improve skills (summer jobs, internships)</li> <li>- Promoting our distinctive identity</li> <li>- Linking specific territories and communities with a view to stimulate economic added-value</li> <li>- Social economic inclusion and co-creation</li> <li>- Gender Equality</li> </ul>
Agriculture and fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research in agrifood</li> <li>- Exchanges of techniques (technical visits)</li> </ul>
Adapting to a post-Brexit world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- linking economic actors</li> <li>- anticipating the different scenario post-Brexit</li> <li>- common lobbying when possible</li> </ul>

**On behalf of Cornwall Council**



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